

## Memo

To: Stratham Police Department Officers  
From: Chief John Scippa  
CC: Stratham Select Board, file  
Date: 1/21/2016  
Re: 2015 Action-Response Statistics

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This memo serves as an overview of the Action-Response statistics for 2015. This information reflects those Action-Response encounters that occurred between the officer and suspect when a Stratham officer made an arrest or seizure during this past year.

There were a total of 164 arrests made during the captioned calendar year. The officers were able to make 161 of the reported 164 arrests using no force other than verbal direction and/or the use of proper handcuffing procedures. During 3 arrests in 2015, Stratham officers had to respond with some level of force to make the arrest, due to the suspect's level of threat or resistance to the officer prior to or during the arrest.

The following table outlines the types, percentage and frequency of threat or resistance offered by the suspects prior to or during arrest.

<b><u>SUBJECT ACTIONS</u></b>	<b><u>PERCENTAGE</u></b>	<b><u>FREQUENCY</u></b>
Striking or Kicking the Officer	0.6%	1 of 164 arrests
Wrestling with Officer	0.6%	1 of 164 arrests
Pushing Officer	0	0 of 164 arrests
Pulling Away From Officer	1.2%	2 of 164 arrests
Refusing to Move/Dead Weight	0.6%	0 of 164 arrests
Not Responding to Commands	0	0 of 164 arrests
Full Compliance, No Resistance	96.9%	159 of 164 arrests

As indicated in the above chart, pulling away from the officer was the most common level of resistance encountered by the officers followed closely by striking or kicking the officer, wrestling with the officer and refusing to move.

The next chart will outline the frequency of responses used by the officers to control the suspects.

<b><u>LEVEL OF RESPONSE</u></b>	<b><u>FREQUENCY</u></b>	<b><u>PERCENTAGE</u></b>
Deadly Force (displayed only)	0	0
Less Lethal	0	0
Neck Restraints	0	0
Impact Weapon Strikes	0	0
Striking Structural Areas	0	0
Electrical Device (Displayed)	0	0
Electrical Device (Deployed)	0	0
Chemical Aerosol Spray	0	0
Baton Restraints	0	0
Striking Motor Pt/Muscle Mass	0	0
Take Downs	0	0
Joint Manipulations	3	1.8%
Pressure Points	0	0
Verbal Direction, Handcuffing	161 OF 164	98.2%

#### **SUMMARY OF EACH EVENT THAT REQUIRED THE USE OF FORCE**

CASE #1      Verbal Direction, Officer Presence v Pulling Away From the Officer: Police were dispatched to a residence to assist with helping a 66 year old male subject who was suffering from a mental illness. The subject was to be taken to the hospital through a mental committal process. The officers spoke with the subject for a period of time and were unsuccessful in convincing the subject to walk to the ambulance. One of the officers attempted to escort the subject by grabbing his upper arm. The subject pulled away. The officers continued talking with the subject and eventually convinced the subject to walk to the ambulance. .

CASE#2      Joint Manipulation v. Wrestling with the Officer: Two Stratham Officers were dispatched in the early morning hours to a neighborhood for a highly intoxicated 35 year old male who was being disorderly by yelling and screaming in the middle of the road. Upon arrival, the officers made contact with the subject who immediately became belligerent toward

the officers. Ultimately, the officers attempted to take the subject into protective custody where he began to pull away and wrestle with the officers. One officer used an escort hold to pin the subject against the hood of the police car so that handcuffs could be applied. The subject was taken into custody and released to a family member.

**CASE#3**      Joint Manipulation v. Striking or Kicking the Officer: A Stratham police officer working at the Stratham Fair was requested to help an EMS crew with an 18 year old female that may have overdosed. The officer arrived to see EMS providers attempting to care for the highly intoxicated female. The female attempted to stand up and began to become uncooperative with the EMS providers. The officer stepped in to assist the female back to a sitting position when the female struck the officer and dug her fingernails into the officer's arm. That officer and an assisting officer were able to use joint manipulation to get the female's hands behind her back and got handcuffs applied. The female was ultimately transported to the hospital and treated for intoxication. The subject ultimately wrote a letter of apology to the police for her actions.

**CASE#4**      Joint Manipulation v. Pulling Away From the Officer: A Stratham Police Officer made a motor vehicle stop and after completing his investigation, he advised the driver that he was under arrest for DWI. The 27 year old male suspect made verbal statements to the officer that he would not comply with the arrest. The arresting officer attempted an escort hold on the suspect who began to pull away from the officer. The officer then used an arm bar and pinned the suspect to the side of the police car to gain control. A second officer was able to control the suspect's second arm and together they were able to handcuff the subject. Once handcuffed, the subject refused to walk to the police car door and attempted to go dead weight. The officers had to use escort techniques to get the subject into the police car.

### SUMMARY

98.2% of the time a Stratham Police Officer arrested a suspect during 2015, they were able to control and arrest the suspect by using only their command presence, verbal direction and/or proper application of the handcuffs. No other force was used in those cases.

For the remaining 1.8% of the arrests, force was used to control the subject. In every case, the force was justified under Federal and State law and conformant to departmental standard operating procedure. The Taser, pepper spray and the baton were not used this year in any manner. On all three occasions, the suspect was controlled in a standing position using a joint lock. On all three occasions where force was used, the subject was highly intoxicated.

This report reflects the professional level of service our officers provide, demonstrates that each officer is properly trained and well versed in the application of force techniques during arrest procedures and supports the notion that our SOPs are appropriate and closely adhered to by the rank and file of this agency.

